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VIA ECFS

March 6, 2014

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554
Attn: Wireline Competition Bureau

**Re: WC Docket No. 10-90
Rural Broadband Experiment Expression of Interest – Rate-of-Return Areas
Hopper Telecommunications LLC**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Hopper Telecommunications LLC (“Hopper”) hereby expresses interest in participating in the Commission’s rural broadband experiments to provide robust, scalable high-speed broadband to unserved high-cost areas with additional Connect America funding.¹ Hopper is a rate-of-return incumbent local exchange carrier serving rural areas of Alabama, and proposes deployment as follows.

Proposed Service Area

Hopper proposes to build a 188 of the total unserved premises in Etowah County, AL which Hopper could develop costs in the short response time as part of the IP broadband experiment.

Proposed Broadband Service

Voice and Broadband services with broadband transmission speeds of up to 100 Mbps downstream/5 Mbps upstream provided over fiber to the home technology.

Funding

Hopper estimates construction costs to be a total of \$320,000. Hopper requests \$320,000 in funding from Connect America Funds in a one-time funding, and will fund the ongoing expenses to operate the system within the funded area. Once the rules for the formal IP Broadband Experiment applications has been release, Hopper

¹ See *Technology Transitions et al.*, GN Docket No. 13-5 et al., Order, Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, Report and Order, Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, Proposal for Ongoing Data Initiative, FCC 14-5 (rel. Jan. 31, 2014).

may expand its request to other unserved regulated ROR areas or contract its request to meet the funding criteria.

Hopper appreciates the opportunity to provide this non-binding expression of interest. Please contact the undersigned with any questions.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dennis Andrews", written in a cursive style.

Dennis Andrews
Senior Vice President
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